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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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EAST GERMANY

Mission in Bonn Opens

The flag was raised over the GDR's permanent mission in Bonn today. However, the head of the mission, Michael Kohl, will probably not present his credentials until the second half of the month, as a consequence of the East German spy case. The Bonn government cancelled the April 30 meeting that was to work out the final details of accreditation. The East German Foreign Ministry commented that if Bonn was putting the accreditation date in jeopardy, "the consequences of such a delay in the normalization of relations will be of its own doing."

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BULGARIA

May Day Celebrations

May Day festivities in Sofia predictably followed the Soviet lead this year. According to Sofia radio coverage, the relatively short parade (one hour, twenty minutes) contained no military units and there were no speeches from the assembled party leadership. Noticeably absent from the ranks was the party's number two figure, Boris Velchev, whose appearances and disappearances continue to be intriguing. Velchev also missed the celebration of Lenin's birthday on 22 April, but he did appear three times in early April in the course of his regular duties.

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ROMANIA

Ceausescu: Another Western Interview

In his latest interview with Western journalists, Ceausescu once again outlined several main points of Bucharest's independent foreign policy. "The future of military alliances,"

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the Romanian leader recently told Finnish reporters, "is in their disappearances, as the creation of new relations based on equality and respect should exclude military blocs." On MBFR, he emphasized that the talks should in no way affect the security and interests of any state, "neither those taking part in the negotiations, nor of the other European states."

Ceausescu also stressed Romanian opposition to an international Communist conference that would criticize or condemn any member of the progressive forces (read: China). In a somewhat new wrinkle to Romanian opposition, he called for the right of "any interested party" to participate in such a conference. "Romania," he said, "constantly speaks up for the expansion of relations of cooperation with all the Communist and workers parties, based on full equality and respect for the right of each party to work out its general political line."

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